

Appl. No. 09/942,244
Amdt. dated December 18, 2003
Reply to Office Action of October 10, 2003

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

B1

Claim 1 (previously amended): A mounting bracket for an inflatable curtain, comprising:
a pair of attachment plates for engaging the inflatable curtain, each plate engagable with a respective opposing surface of the inflatable curtain, at least one attachment plate defining an opening; and
a bushing having an inner surface and an outer surface, the bushing in rotatable communication with the attachment plate adjacent the opening, the bushing configured to receive a fastener.

Claim 2 (previously amended): The mounting bracket of claim 1, wherein the outer surface of the bushing comprises a diameter smaller than the opening of at least one attachment plate.

Claim 3 (original): The mounting bracket of claim 1, wherein the bushing is deformable to facilitate positioning of the bushing within the opening.

Claim 4 (original): The mounting bracket of claim 1, wherein the bushing comprises a protrusion positioned at the inner surface to facilitate engagement of a fastener with the bushing.

Claim 5 (previously amended): The mounting bracket of claim 1, wherein the bushing further comprises a flange extending radially from the outer surface of the bushing to facilitate retention of the bushing within the opening in at least one attachment plate.

Claim 6 (original): The mounting bracket of claim 1, wherein the bushing comprises a first piece rotatably engaged to a second piece.

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Claim 7 (previously amended): The mounting bracket of claim 6, wherein the first piece is attached to at least one attachment plate.

Claim 8 (original): The mounting bracket of claim 6, wherein the second piece is attached to a fastener.

Claim 9 (original): The mounting bracket of claim 1, wherein the bushing comprises a snap having a male member and a female member.

Claim 10 (previously amended): The mounting bracket of claim 9, wherein the female member rotatably engages at least one attachment plate at the opening.

Claim 11 (original): The mounting bracket of claim 9, wherein the male member comprises a protrusion positioned to facilitate engagement of a fastener with the bushing.

Claim 12 (previously canceled)

Claim 13 (previously amended) The mounting bracket of claim 1, wherein each plate defines an opening, the opening of each plate being substantially aligned with each other to permit the positioning of a fastener within each opening.

Claim 14 (previously amended) The mounting bracket of claim 1, wherein the bushing is positioned within at least one attachment plate.

Claim 15 (previously amended) The mounting bracket of claim 1, wherein a first attachment plate comprises a locking tab extending from an attachment surface of the first attachment plate.

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Claim 16 (original): The mounting bracket of claim 15, wherein a second attachment plate comprises a receiving orifice configured within the second attachment plate for receiving the locking tab.

Claim 17 (original): The mounting bracket of claim 15, wherein a second attachment plate comprises a receiving notch configured within the second attachment plate for receiving the locking tab.

Claim 18 (previously amended): The mounting bracket of claim 1, wherein the attachment plates each comprise a first edge, the first edge of each attachment plate being connected to each other.

Claim 19 (original): The mounting bracket of claim 18, wherein the first edge of each attachment plate is integral with each other.

Claim 20 (original): The mounting bracket of claim 1, further comprising a fastener attached to the inner surface of the bushing.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The mounting bracket of claim 20 1, wherein the bracket is shaped to receive a fastener comprises having a head which is larger than the a diameter of the inner surface of the bushing.

Claim 22 (original): A mounting bracket for an inflatable curtain, comprising:
a pair of attachment plates for engaging the inflatable curtain, each plate configured to engage a respective opposing surface of an inflatable curtain, at least one plate defining an opening, to permit the positioning of a fastener within the opening; and

a bushing having an inner surface and an outer surface, the bushing in rotatable communication with at least one attachment plate adjacent the bushing configured to receive a fastener, the bushing comprising a flange extending radially from the outer surface of the bushing to facilitate retention of the bushing within the opening in the attachment plate.

Claim 23 (previously amended): The mounting bracket of claim 22, wherein the outer surface of the bushing comprises a diameter smaller than the opening of at least one attachment plate.

Claim 24 (original): The mounting bracket of claim 23, wherein the bushing is deformable to facilitate positioning of the bushing within the opening.

Claim 25 (original): The mounting bracket of claim 24, wherein the bushing comprises a protrusion positioned at the inner surface to facilitate engagement of a fastener with the bushing.

Claim 26 (original): The mounting bracket of claim 25, wherein a first attachment plate comprises a locking tab extending from an attachment surface of the first attachment plate.

Claim 27 (original): The mounting bracket of claim 26, wherein a second attachment plate comprises a receiving orifice configured within the second attachment plate for receiving the locking tab.

Claim 28 (original): The mounting bracket of claim 26, wherein a second attachment plate comprises a notch configured within the second attachment plate for receiving the locking tab.

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(b)
Claim 29 (original): The mounting bracket of claim 27, further comprising a fastener attached to the inner surface of the bushing.

Claim 30 (currently amended): The mounting bracket of claim 29 27, wherein the bracket is shaped to receive a fastener comprises having a head which is larger than the diameter of the inner surface of the bushing. *NA*

Claim 31 (original): The mounting bracket of claim 22, wherein the bushing comprises a first piece rotatably engaged to a second piece.

Claim 32 (original): The mounting bracket of claim 31, wherein the first piece is attached to the attachment plate.

Claim 33 (original): The mounting bracket of claim 32, further comprising a fastener attached to the second piece.

Claim 34 (original): The mounting bracket of claim 33, wherein a first attachment plate comprises a locking tab extending from an attachment surface of the first attachment plate.

Claim 35 (original): The mounting bracket of claim 34, wherein a second attachment plate comprises a receiving orifice configured within an attachment surface of the second attachment plate for receiving the locking tab.

Claim 36 (currently amended): The mounting bracket of claim 33 32, wherein the bracket is shaped to receive a fastener comprises having a head which is larger than the a diameter of the inner surface of the bushing.

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Claim 37 (original): The mounting bracket of claim 22, wherein the bushing comprises a snap having a male member and a female member.

Claim 38 (original): The mounting bracket of claim 37, wherein the female member rotatably engages the attachment plate at the opening.

Claim 39 (original): The mounting bracket of claim 38, wherein the male member comprises a protrusion positioned to facilitate engagement of a fastener with the bushing.

Claim 40 (original): The mounting bracket of claim 39, wherein a first attachment plate comprises a locking tab extending from an attachment surface of the first attachment plate.

Claim 41 (original): The mounting bracket of claim 40, wherein a second attachment plate comprises a receiving orifice configured within an attachment surface of the second attachment plate for receiving the locking tab.

Claim 42 (original): The mounting bracket of claim 41, further comprising a fastener attached to the inner surface of the bushing.

Claim 43 (currently amended): The mounting bracket of claim 42 41, wherein the bracket is shaped to receive a fastener comprises having a head which is larger than the a diameter of the inner surface of the bushing.

Claim 44 (original): The mounting bracket of claim 22, wherein the attachment plates each comprise a first edge, the first edge of each attachment plate being connected to each other.

Claim 45 (original): The mounting bracket of claim 44, wherein the first edge of each attachment plate is integral with each other.

Claim 46 (original): A mounting bracket for an inflatable curtain, comprising:

a first and second attachment plate, each configured to engage a respective opposing surface of an inflatable curtain, each plate further defining an opening, the opening of each plate being substantially aligned with each other to permit the positioning of a fastener within each opening, the pair of attachment plates being attached to each other at a first edge of each attachment plate; and

a deformable bushing having an inner surface and an outer surface, the outer surface of the bushing comprising a diameter smaller than the opening of the attachment plate, the bushing being in rotatable communication with the attachment plate adjacent the opening;

a locking tab extending from an attachment surface of the first attachment plate; and

a receiving orifice configured within an attachment surface of the second attachment plate for receiving the locking tab.

Claim 47 (original): An airbag device, comprising:

an inflatable curtain having a first edge and opposing surfaces;

a first and second attachment plate configured to engage a respective opposing surface of the inflatable curtain, at least one attachment plate defining an opening to facilitate receiving a fastener; and

a bushing having an inner surface and an outer surface, the bushing being positioned within the opening and in rotatable communication with at least one attachment plate, the bushing comprising a flange extending radially from the outer surface of the bushing to facilitate retention of the bushing within the opening in the attachment plate.

Claim 48 (currently amended): A mounting bracket for an inflatable curtain, comprising:

(3) an attachment means for engaging clamping a portion of the inflatable curtain, the attachment means defining an opening; and

a free rotation means for receiving a fastener and being in rotatable communication with the attachment means adjacent the opening, the free rotation means having an inner surface and an outer surface.

Claim 49 (previously added): The mounting bracket of claim 48, further comprising a locking means for securing the inflatable curtain to the attachment means.

Claim 50 (previously added): The mounting bracket of claim 48, wherein the free rotation means comprises a fastener engagement means positioned at the inner surface for frictionally engaging a fastener with the free rotation means.

Claim 51 (currently amended): The mounting bracket of claim 48, wherein the attachment means engages clamps a respective opposing surface of the inflatable curtain.